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COMMANDERS DIGEST

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REVIEWING THE AIR FORCE CADETS. Vice President Spiro T. Agnew inspects future officers of the U.S. Air Force prior to giving the major commencement address June 9 at the Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo. A total of 685 cadets received their commissions. Almost 6,000 young men have graduated from the Air Force Academy since the first class received diplomas and commissions 12 years ago. (Official White House Photo)

2,155 Officers Graduate From Service Academies; Vice President, Sec. Laird, Adm. Zumwalt Speak

The professional officer corps complement of the U.S. Armed Forces increased by 2,155 June 9 when the three military service academies graduated and commissioned that total number of men in the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps.

Delivering the major commencement addresses before the graduates, thousands of distinguished guests, faculties and visitors were: Spiro T. Agnew, Vice President of the United States, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo., which graduated 685 officers; Melvin R. Laird, Secretary of Defense, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, N.Y., which graduated 721 officers; and Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., USN, Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., which graduated 632 Naval and 117 Marine officers.

Vice President Agnew highlighted his remarks by saying, "As you leave the Air Force Academy today and move away from the rigorous study and discipline, the creative competition of sports and studies, and the warm fellowship of classmates, you will find the experiences which you have enjoyed and shared during the past four years will carry you through times of trial and times of testing. And, you will certainly face great tests, tests of yourselves and the Nation."

He said "Professionalism is a philosophy which has sustained members of the military services for centuries, and it sustains them today. It is a philosophy that permits men to think the unthinkable and to endure the unendurable. Professionalism equips each of you who will graduate today to stand up for freedom even in the face of conflict and even in times when it is not popular to be a member of the armed services."

"For the military professional like the Air Force Academy graduate, war is dreadful," he continued, "but the loss of freedom is the ultimate catastrophe."

Then quoting . . . "The great philosopher John Stuart Mill, writing during the

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time of the American Civil War, said: 'War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth fighting for is much worse. A man who has nothing for which he is willing to fight, nothing he cares about more than his own personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of being free, unless made and kept so by the exertions of better men than himself.'

"This, then, is your calling. And I come before you today to commend you for accepting it and to share your pride in it."

The Vice President later told his large audience, "America still offers the single best hope for advancement of the human race. The vast majority of Americans know that, even if some of our more nihilistic fellow citizens, the professional deplorers, do not. You would do well to remember it."

In another vein, Vice President Agnew said, "Pollution is another problem of our age. The destruction of our environment has finally aroused our attention as a Nation. We have the technological ability to halt it, and it will be halted. But there is an even more insidious form of pollution which threatens us as a people—pollution of the mind and spirit. This is a pollution that can destroy civilization just as surely as choking off the air or contaminating the water. While we may be far from perfect as a people, ours is still a land that offers the refreshing freedom, compassion and personal liberty which sets mind and spirit free.

Genuine Equality

"We have had difficulties—and magnified them to the world—in bringing about a genuine equality of opportunity among men, particularly for minority races. But, it is extremely important to give ourselves credit for having recognized these shortcomings and made efforts to correct them. High-minded idealism led to the great breakthrough in civil rights achieved during recent decades. Idealism—not disruptive demonstrations—accounted for the far-reaching improvements in human opportunity which we have seen and which we will continue to see. And never forget, in these days when it is popular to disparage the military, that the military services led the rest of the country in making equal rights a reality."

SECRETARY LAIRD

"Pollution of the mind and spirit," he said, "is a problem which plagues some other lands more than it does ours, but it can be a threat to us too if we ever relax our ideals or abandon our sense of values.

"As I see it," the Vice President said, "ours is a land where maximum personal liberty prevails; where a free enterprise system has built the base upon which our over-populated world might yet thrive; and where problems of discrimination, inequity, and injustice are dealt with by the inexorable force of the public conscience in a truly representative society. Sometimes this process is painfully slow, but it is secure and the progress is permanent."

America's Role

He then expounded upon America's role in world history and the encroachment of communism and noted, "The drive to disarm America—unilaterally—has given birth to many of the outrageous assaults and ridiculous charges with which our great institutions are being bombarded today."

In conclusion, Vice President Agnew emphasized, "There are two great factors which will continue to strengthen the character of those of you who continue to serve:

—"First, you will be bolstered by membership in a growing body of men who are developing a great tradition—the graduates of the United States Air Force Academy.

—"Second, you will gain strength from the moral decision that what you are doing is right. Your faith in the inherent goodness of your country will be too strong to be shaken.

"As you rise in responsibility you will never hesitate to warn of enemy capabilities and what they could mean; you will never cease to let your superiors and Congress know what weapons and what forces you will need; and you will never be cowed—either by malicious lies or well-intentioned criticism at home or by enemy attack from abroad.

"Never will it be said of you: He stood for nothing and fell for anything.

"It will be said of you: He stood for his country and the world was a better place for it."

WEST POINT

At West Point, Secretary Laird told the graduating cadets: "Today, as you begin your careers as officers, we are not yet at peace. But we are much closer to peace than we were when you began your studies at West Point.

"How far along that road we have come," he continued, "is clear when we compare the number of combat deaths in Vietnam for May of 1968 with those for May of 1971. In the month just ended, American combat deaths were down more than 90 per cent from the level of the corresponding month three years ago. Last week, indications are, they were fewer than 20. Every death is a tragedy. And we will not be satisfied until we reach the day when no Americans die in Vietnam or anywhere else."

Mr. Laird said that he was not going to talk to the cadets about war, he was going to talk about peace and the tasks of military leadership in a peaceful world.

"Millions of young people in Europe have grown up without knowing war," he

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COMMANDERS DIGEST

THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

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Close Cooperation Noted In Testimony

Ass't. Sec. Kelley Cites Leadership In Combatting Drug Problem

The problem of drug abuse in the U.S. Armed Forces was discussed June 9 before the Senate Subcommittee on Alcoholism and Narcotics by Roger T. Kelley, Assistant Secretary of Defense (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

"As we confront this critical national problem," Mr. Kelley told the Subcommittee, "we are stimulated and our efforts greatly strengthened by the leadership of the President, the interest of the Congress . . . and the cooperation of other executive agencies. . . .

"We are working closely in cooperation with others . . ." he said, "including [Departments of] State, Justice, Health, Education and Welfare, Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, Veterans Administration, Treasury Department [and] the National Institute of Mental Health, to mention a few. The emphasis placed upon the drug problem by these agencies are all factors on the positive side. Within the Executive Branch there has been a wide range of initiatives covering: prosecution of offenders; cutting off sources of production and illegal distribution of drugs; [and] the education and treatment of drug users. These initiatives are being broadly accelerated to bring this difficult problem under control."

Mr. Kelley cited the recommendations of a high-level Department of Defense Task Force established more than a year ago, resulting in a new DoD policy on drug abuse, issued in 1970, including:

—All military members, Active and Reserve, are to be informed and educated about the hazards and consequences of using drugs.

—Maximum efforts must be made to keep drug addicts from entering the armed services, and to cut off the sources of drug distribution within the armed services.

—Where drug abuse occurs, the abusers must be dealt with quickly, firmly, and fairly, but with enlightened methods that will insure the best interest of the National Security and the individual user.

—Military drug users are encouraged to turn themselves in for help as a means of overcoming their drug dependency.

DISPOSITION OF DRUG ABUSE OFFENDERS UNDER THE UNIFORM CODE OF MILITARY JUSTICE

	No. of Non-Judicial Punishments		No. of Trials General C-M		No. of Trials Special C-M		No. of Trials Summary C-M	
	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970
Army	2,042	3,968	217	274	3,125	2,796	410	406
Navy	672	628	40	43	234	282	157	181
Air Force	545	801	30	48	177	222	15	2
Marine Corps	172	509	160	70	439	408	149	176
TOTAL	3,431	5,906	447	435	3,975	3,708	731	765

—The military services are encouraged to conduct amnesty programs on a trial basis. These are to test the effectiveness of voluntary programs in which the military drug user can receive help without fear of reprisal because of his identification with the treatment program.

"As a result of this new policy," Mr. Kelley said, "the level of effort and the number of military activities related to drug control and treatment, have increased many fold in the past year."

The assistant secretary explained that the military services, in cooperation with other government agencies, have established a number of innovative programs to address the problem, including: attendance by military personnel and others at special drug investigators training schools in Germany and Japan; the holding of public seminars for non-investigative personnel; live telecasts; operation—by the Navy in San Diego, Calif. —of a drug abuse education specialist school; utilization of volunteer high school teen counselors in a peer education program called "Dope-Stop"; obtaining the services of several ex-addicts by the U.S. Air Force Military Airlift Command to conduct seminars; use of the **Pacific Stars and Stripes** and the American Forces Radio and Television Network in a joint-command drug abuse educational program; use of trained dogs to detect marijuana and establishment of voluntary treatment programs. ("There were approximately 200 per month during 1970 in Vietnam and during the first three months of 1971 over 4,000 have voluntarily identified themselves under the program," Mr. Kelley said).

ASS'T. SEC. FROEHLKE

NEW JOB. Robert F. Froehlke, who joined the Defense Department in 1969 as Assistant Secretary of Defense (Administration), has been nominated by President Richard Nixon as Secretary of the Army. He will succeed Stanley R. Resor who recently tendered his resignation to the President after serving the Nation for almost six years. Mr. Froehlke's replacement was not announced. (DoD Photo)

Speaking on behalf of Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird and the military services, Mr. Kelley said, "Despite these initiatives and increased efforts to combat the drug problem, . . . we are not satisfied with the results because the problem has not been brought under effective control.

". . . The use of drugs in the armed forces, as in the Nation, has increased," he continued. "One measure of this is the number of military members investigated by law enforcement agencies because of drugs. This total increased by 80 per

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Secretary Chafee Describes Navy Actions Against Drug Abuse

The growing problems of drug abuse —"An ill which can be cured," as he termed it—was the subject of Navy Secretary John H. Chafee's address May 24 to the Woonsocket, R.I., Chamber of Commerce. Although his talk covered the broad aspects of drug abuse, Mr. Chafee focused on the problem as it affects the Navy and described what the Navy is doing to control it.

"Drug abuse in any military organization poses special problems above and beyond those it creates in civilian life," he said.

"It is basic to the military mission," he continued, "that our men are entrusted with deadly weapons to be used in the defense of our country. Very often relatively young men must be given actual control of such complex and expensive weapon systems as warships and jet airplanes. Ships and planes are crammed with complex electronic circuitry, volatile fuels and high explosives. The people who operate and maintain all this equipment must exercise exceptional skill and judgment. Failure to do so can result in tragedy. . . .

NEW UNIFORM. Navy Secretary John H. Chafee, center, before departing the Pentagon for Woonsocket, R.I., where he addressed the Chamber of Commerce on the matter of drug abuse control, compares the newly-approved U.S. Navy enlisted men's uniform, right, modeled by Yeoman Seaman Richard W. Vieth, with the traditional bluejacket's wearing apparel worn by Seaman Jeff Brasie. The new uniform, approved by Secretary Chafee, consisting of coat and tie, regular trousers and combination cap, can be worn by sailors July 1, 1973. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

Entrust Lives

"In the armed services, men are and must be entrusted with the lives of many other men, and they must be at all times fully able to fulfill that trust; any impairment of faculties or judgment is simply not acceptable. . . .

"We cannot, for example," he went on, "simply discharge, get rid of all those of our people who are involved in drug abuse even though such a course of action might be militarily more efficient."

The Navy Secretary then cited four directions of specific actions the Navy is taking to solve the drug abuse problem. He said:

—"First, we are working to improve our initial screening methods at the time of original recruitment. Our experience has been that a very high proportion of the individuals who become involved with drugs while in the Service began that involvement as civilians before entering. Obviously then if we can identify and exclude such individuals we will have prevented later difficulties.

"But the identification of drug users by our recruiters is not as easy as one might think. Our enlistment papers presently require an applicant to state whether or not he has ever used drugs and to certify to the truth of his response. Since a high percentage of men who are later found to be using drugs in the Navy admit to having used them before entering the service, and since we do not accept those who admit on their enlistment applications to anything more than casual experimentation, we have apparently been guilty in some cases of rejecting those who tell the truth and accepting those who lie.

Working Hard

"But we are working hard to improve our chances of screening out drug users right at the start. We are doing this by providing additional training to our recruiters; by making more thorough use of the normal channels we use to "check out" an applicant—such as his local police, his school officials and counselor, his contemporaries and the references he gives; by warning the applicant himself of the serious, long-term effects of fraudulent enlistment. We have also reduced the pressure on our recruiters which could lead them to accept borderline applicants, by modifying our quota system to a system of goals with quality emphasized.

—"Second, we have embarked on an extensive educational program designed to acquaint every man and woman associated with the naval service with the facts and effects of drug abuse. This program emphasizes the physiological and psychological dangers inherent in drug abuse, it stresses the inconsistency of drug abuse with military responsibilities and responsibilities to shipmates and brothers-in-arms, and it explains the disciplinary actions which can be taken. It begins immediately with recruit training but it is not limited to active duty people. It includes civilian employes,

dependents and members of the various Reserve components.

"An important part of this education program is the development of an acute awareness of the serious nature of the problem on the part of flag officers and commanders at every level. And a large part of this program is emphasis on some of the basic problems within the command structure that may be causing an atmosphere of unnecessary tensions and annoyances. The extent of drug usage in many cases is a symptom of an underlying ill. We intend to encourage our commanders to identify some of these basic ills in their commands.

Training Specialists

"As part of the implementation of this program a school has been established which is training drug abuse education specialists. These men are being assigned to our major commands afloat and shore where they will advise commanders, conduct group discussions, lecture, counsel individuals, assist with existing programs and help to institute new and more effective ones.

—"Third, we are using all our resources to crack down hard on pushers or peddlers of drugs and to suppress and confiscate the drug materials themselves. This effort includes the use of dogs trained to sniff out marijuana and the instruction of naval Postal Clerks in techniques and procedures which will improve their ability to intercept illicit drug shipments. It also includes drug abuse training for our shore patrols and Marine MP's, and an upgrading of the ability of the Naval Investigative Service to reduce drug traffic and search out sources and supplies.

"Fourth," he concluded, "we are expanding and improving our ability to rehabilitate and retain as many individuals as possible of those who have been found to be involved with drugs. While the Navy has neither the funds nor the facilities for long term rehabilitation, we have had success in restoring to duty personnel who at one time were experimenters and minor drug users but who genuinely desire to earn an eventual honorable discharge and who have not been addicted to the so-called "hard" drugs or LSD. The Navy's obligation to its vast majority of non-drug users does not permit the risks involved in attempting to retain users of LSD or hard drug addicts in the Service."

65 Nations Join In Adopting Exchanges Of Information Against Drug Trafficking

U.S. Commissioner of Customs Myles J. Ambrose has announced that the Customs Cooperation Council, at the close of its sessions June 11, in Vienna, Austria, has adopted a recommendation that its member countries exchange information on illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and pyschotopic substances.

The council, which is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, is an international organization of 65 member nations, which is concerned with customs procedures and practices as applied in international trade.

Commissioner Ambrose, the U.S. delegate to the sessions of council, said the recommendation adopted by the council represents another step toward effective international cooperation to stop illicit drug traffic. The members of the council include many nations with which the United States is presently working to encourage and develop effective mutual assistance in the fight against drugs.

The council has recommended to its members that their Customs Administration people immediately communicate to their counterparts in other nations any information concerning:

—Operations which are known or suspected to constitute, or which seem likely to give rise to, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs or psychotopic substances;

—Persons known to be engaged in or suspected of engaging in drug traffic operations, and vehicles, ships, aircraft and other means of transportation used, or suspected of being used for such operations;

—New means or methods used for illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotopic substances; and

—Products which are newly developed or used as narcotic drugs or psychotopic substances and which are the subject of illicit traffic.

SEA-GOING GENERAL. Army General Creighton W. Abrams, Commander, Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV), is given a briefing on the bridge of the USS Midway (CVA-41) by Carrier Division One Commander Rear Admiral John L. Butts Jr., left. The general later visited the USS Kitty Hawk (CVA-63) for briefings on current Seventh Fleet Attack Carrier Striking Force operations before returning to his headquarters near Saigon. (Official U.S. Navy Photo)

OFFICERS GRADUATE

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noted, and then explained why: "It is because there has been in Europe a realistic combination of strength and partnership that has preserved the peace. This combination of sustained strength and partnership through NATO has made possible the prospect of meaningful negotiations concerning mutual and balanced force reductions.

"This is what," he added, "the Nixon Doctrine seeks to achieve worldwide—the organization of the strength of peace-keeping nations in a partnership that induces meaningful negotiations and discourages resort to force."

Later in his talk, Mr. Laird said that two important conclusions emerge from a review of past strategies:

—"First, the United States cannot and must not turn away from its role as a leader in the Free World of nations.

—"Second, in the face of the strategic, manpower, fiscal and political realities, we need to change the way in which America fulfills its leadership role.

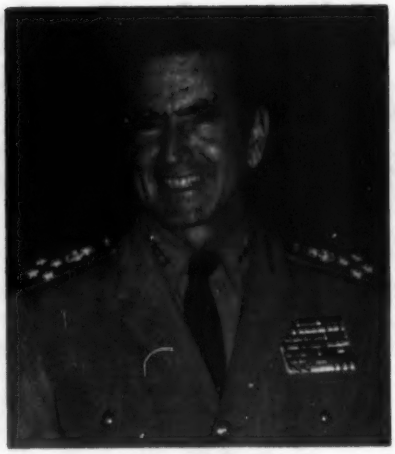
Leadership Role

"This leadership role, under the new strategy, demands that the U.S. maintain adequate strength for our forces in the years ahead—strength which, when combined with the strength of our friends and allies, will make aggression unattractive for potential opponents.

"It means," he added, "modernization of our planned peacetime forces to preserve their sufficiency, . . . more emphasis on the immediate readiness and strength of our National Guard and Reserves, . . . maintaining research and technological leadership, . . . a larger and more effective security assistance program to help our friends and allies increase their contributions in a more effective partnership for peace, . . . and . . . recognition of, and support for, the selfless contributions being made by men such as you who will lead our military establishment.

"The challenges facing the Army," the Secretary asserted, "are similar to those which face our Nation—adaptation, continued dedication and perseverance to face up realistically to the problems which lie ahead. And the great problem for humanity is that of attaining a secure, a just and lasting peace.

"Historically," he said, "the armed forces of our country have always contributed to the achievement of broader goals than the maintenance of physical security.



ADM. ZUMWALT

Social Importance

"Today, work of great social importance goes on in the armed forces in such fields as education, housing, health, drug control and race relations—work that helps immeasurably in solving the serious domestic problems that vex the Nation. The military establishment has often been the pioneer that blazed the trail toward the solution of great social problems. . . .

Mr. Laird then posed some challenges to the cadets: "Never be defensive about your profession. For, you have a noble mission and a high calling. Your mission —in a word—is peace. The American people want and will support—in fact, I believe, they will demand—armed forces of top-notch people manned and equipped to preserve the peace. . . .

"Throughout its long history," he concluded, "men of West Point have not turned away from difficult problems but have sought effective solutions. The country is counting on you to continue this tradition.

"May God watch over you and over this land for whose safety and freedom you now accept a special and personal responsibility."

ANNAPOLIS

Adm. Zumwalt, speaking at the U.S. Naval Academy, cautioned midshipmen against inter-service rivalry: "We are all professional men, and as professionals we should stand together and take what comes like men whatever the color of our uniforms. We share a common goal, and we should not publicly pursue contradictory roads to that goal. If we wish the image of military service to again become the honorable and respected profession we believe it to be, we must not give aid and comfort to those who would prefer to see it characterized otherwise. . . .

The admiral outlined what the midshipmen might expect following graduation:

—"Men and their morale must concern you at every step of your Service career, during your every waking hour.

—"You will be dealing with a new type of American Bluejacket—an informed, articulate man whose presence in uniform will be voluntary in every respect.

—"Your concern for his morale must go beyond that historic concern for physical needs—adequate food, sleep and quarters—which has always marked the good leader.

—"He will also need to know," Adm. Zumwalt asserted, "more about the 'why?' rather than the 'how?' of his duties —and you will provide it or you and the Navy will lose a man.

—"You will need to talk to your men frankly and from a position of informed competence on matters which once were accepted as fact without discussion.

—"Where once, youthful opinions were generally confined in scope to matters of relatively minor social import, young people today have ranged far and wide, and hold few matters to be so sacred as to be beyond inquiry.

No Inconsistency

"There is," the four-star admiral continued, "no inconsistency between effective discipline and high morale. In fact, one cannot exist without the other. . . .

"There has been considerable hand-wringing on the part of a few . . . about the implications of some of the Navy's personnel initiatives in the past year. Such anxiety seems to be premised on an assumption that 'changes' are 'relaxations' and, ergo, unquestionably will lead to a mass breakdown in discipline."

He then cited a long-accepted Navy practice—flogging—about which, when first suggested to be abolished in 1820, at least one Congressman claimed that

its abolution would "altogether destroy the efficiency of the Navy."

"Flogging," the admiral noted with a bit of humor, "was finally abolished in our Navy in 1850—and I note that when it was, the Navy managed to survive quite well in its absence. . . .

"The Navy's problem today is not one of 'discipline' but one of enlightened leadership. What is needed are men with vision, imagination and, above all, understanding of what is going on in the world around them.

Comfortable Memories

"The time is long since past when we can wrap ourselves in the comfortable memories of life in a simpler age, hoping that traditional solutions alone will work against modern problems. . . .

"The time is long since past when we can retire to the coziness of the wardroom or the Officers' Club secure in the knowledge that what goes on ashore or outside the base is no concern of ours.

"Today there are scores of forces at work in our country," he went on, "that have a direct bearing on our Navy's future and even its very existence. It is time for us to withdraw our heads from the sand and look around at the society of which we are a part, despite the trend of rejection by that society now visible.

Real Tragedy

The admiral noted that all Ivy League colleges have eliminated Naval ROTC units from their culture. "The real tragedy of this," he said, "is that our Navy, and indeed, our armed services, must be representative of our whole society. Thus it is not just the Navy that is the loser, but American society itself, when any segment of that society is excluded from service.

"You are personally accountable for your every act, official or unofficial, which may bring either credit or discredit to the uniform we share," Adm. Zumwalt cautioned. "You owe the American people and yourself nothing less—the minimum passing grade in this subject is 4.0—if you should find this burden excessive, then your choice is clear."

In conclusion, the admiral extended congratulations to the graduating class and to parents and friends of the midshipmen, and said: "On behalf of the officers and men of the United States Navy, both past and present, I welcome you aboard."

ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGES FOR DRUG ABUSE*
CALENDAR YEARS 1969-1970

	Honorable		General		Undesirable		Total	
	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970	1969	1970
Army	6	27	55	107	189	406	250	540
Navy	162	273	1,320	2,507	1,305	894	2,787	3,674
Air Force	100	60	118	154	73	28	291	242
Marine Corps	5	13	66	262	367	890	438	1,165
DoD Total	273	373	1,559	3,030	1,934	2,218	3,766	5,621

*Includes only administrative discharges directly attributable to drug abuse.

LEADERSHIP CITED

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cent from 1968 to 1969, and by 38 per cent from 1969 to 1970. It appears that the increase from 1970 to 1971 will be at least as great.

"In Vietnam during calendar year 1970," he went on, "over 700 U.S. military members were investigated for involvement with hard narcotics. The corresponding figure for just the first quarter of 1971 is over 800, or 100 more. This illustrates the rate at which the use of hard narcotics is spreading in Vietnam.

". . . Marijuana continues to be the illegal drug most often used by our troops worldwide," he said, adding, "It is not, however, the most serious drug problem in the armed forces. More serious, by far, is the problem of hard narcotics, and, in particular, the problem of heroin which has surfaced in South Vietnam during the past year.

"High potency heroin," he stressed, "is readily available at very low prices throughout Vietnam. It is usually packaged in small plastic vials of ¼ to ½ gram of powdered #4 white heroin. By laboratory analysis their contents are typically 95 per cent pure—and by contrast, heroin sold in the U.S. is typically 1/20th the potency of the Vietnam blend, and it sells for 10 to 20 times more.

"We don't know how many U.S. military members in Vietnam use heroin and other drugs. . . . By the most conservative estimate of the heroin use-rate in Vietnam, one must conclude that altogether too many of our military men are using it. During the first quarter of 1971, over 3,600 Army personnel asked for help under amnesty programs to overcome their dependency on heroin.

"The consequences are stark and alarming," he emphasized, and offered the Subcommittee a summary of military drug-related deaths during calendar year 1970 to back up his statement.

Military Drug-Related Deaths—Calendar Year 1970

	Opiates	Barbiturates	Amphetamines	Alcohol	Darvon	Combination and Other
Army	*53	*15	1	5	17	12
Navy	2	3	0	7	1	8
Air Force	7	4	0	0	4	7
Marine Corps	7	0	0	0	4	7
TOTALS	69	22	1	12	26	34

*42 deaths related to opiates and 8 deaths related to barbiturates occurred in Vietnam.

Gen. Mather, Commander-In-Chief Of U.S. Southern Command, Testifies On Military Sales In Latin American Countries

Army General George R. Mather, Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Southern Command, discussed military assistance and foreign military sales programs in Latin America May 20 before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

In his statement, Gen. Mather noted that the principal problems of Latin America continue to be the same as those he discussed with the committe in June 1969.

"The poverty, overcrowding and general social unrest," he said, "stretch the weak institutional fabrics and contribute to an unstable climate which is ripe for exploitation by those insurgent and revolutionary groups who aim to change the traditional institutions by force. Savage and brutal acts of murder, kidnapping and arson have occurred with frequency in the past two years, particularly in an increasing wave of urban terrorism.

Seek Social Progress

"Those governments," he continued, "which seek social progress for their people are increasingly ready to confront and defeat the terrorists who would bring them down. Our assistance programs have contributed to their resolve to deal with the threats they face.

"Significant among the threats to our own interests in the region is the growth of nationalism, often with a built-in bias against the most evident target—the United States.

"This is a condition which lends itself to exploitation by the Soviet Union, whose intentions include enlarging its influence in the region."

He pointed out that, although Soviet interests appear, at the moment, to be directed primarily at Western South America, other areas of the hemisphere have not been ignored; in the past two years, the number of Soviet embassies in Latin America have increased from 8 to 11, and Communist diplomatic, consular and trade missions have increased from 128 to 141 during the same period.

The general said that Fidel Castro, Premier of Cuba, continues to support violent revolution, and added that hardline extremists have been viciously active in the cities of several countries. "Our own diplomatic and military personnel," he said, "have suffered from their savage acts."

Explaining that some Latin governments have been making more aggressive and coordinated responses to the activities of urban terrorists, Gen. Mather noted that the development of a convention to unify regional responses to terrorists acts has recently begun within the Organization of American States (OAS). He added that OAS has, ever since a clash between El Salvador and Honduras in 1969, been operating a peace-keeping mission along the border of the two countries. Southern Command, he added, has assisted the OAS mission by furnishing observer and communications personnel as well as aircraft.

Gen. Mather then turned to the proposed military assistance and sales programs for Fiscal Year 1972, which, he said, "are the continuation of a long-term effort in Latin America; an effort that has evolved with and adjusted to changing circumstances over the years."

"For military assistance grant aid in FY 1972," he said, "a 'training-only' program is requested, which will provide training in the United States and in Latin America for 4,265 foreign military students. About one-fourth of them will receive training in the United States. The majority will attend technical and professional military courses at the schools we operate in the Canal Zone."

Realistic Training

Gen. Mather indicated that the Canal Zone military schools—the U.S. Army School of the Americas, the Inter-American Air Forces Academy, and the Navy Small Craft Inspection and Training Team—are most necessary to the achievement of realistic training objectives because they provide courses and training tailored to the precise needs of the area.

"Further," he said, "they help significantly to promote regional cooperation and to reduce historical animosities and suspicions. The camaraderie and cooperation enjoyed by students and faculty in those schools, where courses are conducted in their own language, make intangible but large contributions toward hemispheric cooperation."

The four-star general said that "The proposed FY 1972 training level responds to the training needs of the Latin American countries, and is sufficient to meet those needs . . . partly because the nations are taking on more of the training load themselves.

"Another reason that the program need not be larger," he stated, "is the effect of third-country arms sales on training. The most logical source of training is the country that provides the equipment. As the Latins have to turn to buying equipment from third countries, and as that equipment begins to arrive, I anticipate that we will see third-country training and influence supplanting our own. Such a loss of influence is of concern, especially in an area where, whether we like it or not, the military will continue to play an important role in the political process."

Increased Importance

Noting that the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program has taken on increased importance as grant materiel programs in Latin America have diminished, Gen. Mather said: ". . . We can take a moderate, yet meaningful role in the equipment renewal programs of the Latin American armed forces. The larger countries have already moved through the transitional phase of military assistance, shifting from grant aid to credit and cash sales.

"For the most part," he continued, "their arms purchases have been designed to replace obsolete worn-out equipment of World War II or earlier vintage, which is wastefully expensive to maintain. This modest degree of modernization is also necessary to maintain morale in their armed forces and to attract quality people to them.

"Just as the Latin nations expect our markets to be open for diversification of their exports," the general concluded, "so do they expect our production facilities to be available to them for arms renewal purchases. The program requested permits us to respond to their needs without abandoning our policy of careful discrimination concerning arms sales, particularly where social and economic budgets may be affected."

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